

UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL

(Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 CFR 1.53(b))

Attornay	Docket No.	
ALLOTTICY	TARGET HOS	

1317.1028/MDS

S&H Form: PTO/SB/05 (12/97)

First Named Inventor or Application Identifier:

Hyoung-Joo LEE

Express Mail Label No.

**Assistant Commissioner for Patents** APPLICATION ELEMENTS ADDRESS TO: **Box Patent Application** See MPEP chapter 600 concerning utility patent Washington, DC 20231 application contents. 1. [X] Fee Transmittal Form 2. [X] Specification, Claims & Abstract ..... [ Total Pages: 14 ] 3. [X] Drawing(s) (35 USC 113) ...... [ Total Sheets: 4 ] 4. [X] Oath or Declaration ...... [ Total Pages: 1] a. [X] Newly executed (original or copy) b. [ ] Copy from a prior application (37 CFR 1.63(d)) (for continuation/divisional with Box 17 completed) i. [ ] DELETION OF INVENTOR(S) Signed statement attached deleting inventor(s) named in the prior application, see 37 CFR 1.63(d)(2) and 1.33(b). 5. [ ] Incorporation by Reference (usable if Box 4b is checked) The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which a copy of the oath or declaration is supplied under Box 4b, is considered as being part of the disclosure of the accompanying application and is hereby incorporated by reference therein. 6. [ ] Microfiche Computer Program (Appendix) 7. [ ] Nucleotide and/or Amino Acid Sequence Submission (if applicable, all necessary) a. [ ] Computer Readable Copy b. [ ] Paper Copy (identical to computer copy) c. [ ] Statement verifying identity of above copies **ACCOMPANYING APPLICATION PARTS** 8. [X] Assignment Papers (cover sheet & document(s)) 9. [ ] 37 CFR 3.73(b) Statement (when there is an assignee) [ ] Power of Attorney 10. [ ] English Translation Document (if applicable) [ ] Copies of IDS Citations 11. [ ] Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)/PTO-1449 12. [ ] Preliminary Amendment 13. [X] Return Receipt Postcard (MPEP 503) (Should be specifically itemized) 14. [ ] Small Entity Statement(s) [ ] Statement filed in prior application, status still proper and desired. 15. [X] Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) (if foreign priority is claimed) 16. [ ] Other: 17. If a CONTINUING APPLICATION, check appropriate box and supply the requisite information: [ ] Continuation [ ] Divisional [ ] Continuation-in-part (CIP) of prior application No: \_\_\_\_ 18. CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS STAAS & HALSEY Telephone: (202) 434-1500 Attn: Michael D. Stein Facsimile: (202) 434-1501

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# METHOD OF DISPLAYING TV PROGRAM PROGRESS TIME AND DEVICE THEREOF

#### BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

#### 1. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to a TV receiver, and more particularly, to a method for displaying a TV program progress time and a device thereof.

# 2. Description of the Related Art

Usually, a user can check a TV program progress time, i.e., beginning/terminating time, and a televised elapsed time, by referring to a program schedule guide printed in information media like newspapers and magazines.

In the next generation digital TV broadcasting system capable of providing users with program guide information, a user can instruct a TV set to display the program schedule information according to the program guide to check the progress time of the currently viewed program. When the TV receiver displays the program schedule information in response to the above instruction, the user can determine the progress time of the currently viewed program on his own from the program schedule information.

It is cumbersome for the user to refer to newspapers to check the progress time of the currently viewed program according to the conventional method. Further, in the device for displaying the program schedule information as in the next generation digital TV receiver, it is also inconvenient for the user to instruct the TV set during viewing to display the program schedule information. Such a display of the program schedule information overlaps with the program screen, which is another problem causing interruption of the user's viewing. It is also troublesome for the user to search the program schedule information for the currently viewed program to check the program progress time.

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# SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Accordingly, it is an object of the present invention to provide a method and device capable of directly displaying the program progress time information about the currently viewed program on the screen immediately upon request.

Additional objects and advantages of the invention will be set forth in part in the description which follows and, in part, will be obvious from the description, or may be learned by practice of the invention.

According to the present invention, a method of displaying a program progress time in a TV receiver which receives and processes program guide information containing a program schedule, includes the steps of storing the program guide information, and displaying time information about the relevant program on a picture tube when the user issues a command requesting display of the program progress time with respect to the currently viewed program.

# BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The preferred embodiment of the present invention will now be described more specifically with reference to the drawings attached only by way of example.

- FIG. 1 a block diagram illustrating a High Definition Television (HDTV) receiver according to an embodiment of the present invention;
- FIG. 2 is a flow chart illustrating a display of program progress time according to the embodiment of the present invention;
- FIG. 3 is a descriptive diagram of a display screen illustrating a setup menu of the program progress time information according to the embodiment of the present invention; and
- FIGS. 4 and 5 are descriptive diagrams illustrating the program progress time information displayed on the screen of a picture tube according to the embodiment of the present invention.

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# DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Reference will now made in detail to the present preferred embodiments of the present invention, examples of which are illustrated in the accompanying drawings, wherein like reference numerals refer to the like elements throughout. The embodiments are described below in order to explain the present invention by referring to the figures.

In order that the present invention is implemented, a broadcast station broadcasts program schedule information, whereby the above TV set receives and stores the program guide information including the program schedule, and thereby displays the program progress time on a TV screen according to the embodiment of the present invention.

As mentioned above, TV broadcast stations broadcast program guide information. Besides, the next generation digital TV broadcasting, like the HDTV (high definition television) of the U.S.A., provides users with the program guide information. Particularly, the United States Advanced Television System Committee (ATSC) standard stipulates that the program guide information shall be included in the electronic program guide (EPG).

When the present invention is applied to the next generation digital TV broadcasting, the broadcast station doesn't need to separately broadcast program guide information.

An example of the application of the present invention to the above HDTV is explained in the following. Referring to FIG. 1, a tuner 102 selects an RF channel desired by a user from the input signals received through an antenna 100 under the control of a microprocessor 124. The tuner 102 outputs an IF (intermediate frequency) signal, which is converted into a baseband signal by an IF module 104 so as to be delivered to a channel decoder 106. The channel decoder 106 converts the baseband signal to a channel signal to reconstruct a transport stream (TS). The TS decoder 108 separates the above reconstructed TS into audio and video streams and auxiliary data.

The above audio stream is applied to an audio decoder 110, whereby the audio data are reconstructed. An audio processor 112 processes and converts the audio data from the audio decoder 110 into an audio signal, and the audio signal is output through speaker 114 as an audible sound.

The video stream is applied to a video decoder 116, whereby video data are reconstructed, then applied to an OSG (on screen graphic) mixer 118 so as to be mixed with

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OSG data under the control of microprocessor 124, and then delivered to an image processor/generator 120 which converts the video data into a video signal to be applied to a picture tube 122.

The microprocessor 124 performs operations commanded by user instructions input from a keypad 128 or an IR remote controller 130 through a user interface 134 in accordance with a program stored in a memory 126. User instructions input from the IR remote controller 130 are delivered in the form of an IR signal to an IR receiver 132 so as to be further supplied to the user interface 134. The microprocessor 124 receives auxiliary data containing EPG information from the TS decoder 108.

The memory 126 includes a ROM (Read Only Memory) for storing the program of the microprocessor 124, a RAM (Random Access Memory) for temporarily storing data resulting from the program execution of the microprocessor 124, and an EEPROM (Electrically Erasable and Programmable ROM) for storing various reference data.

Referring to FIG. 2, the embodiment of the present invention is described in detail as follows. In step 136, the microprocessor 124 checks whether a user instruction for setup of a program progress time displaying function is received from the keypad 128 or the IR remote controller 130. When the user sets the program progress time displaying function, the microprocessor 124 proceeds to step 138, and otherwise proceeds to step 142. In step 138, the microprocessor 124 generates OSG data for displaying a setup menu of the program progress time displaying function and delivers the OSG data to the OSG mixer 118. The OSG mixer 118 mixes the OSG data from the microprocessor 124 and the video data from the video decoder 116, thereby delivering the resulting data to the image processor/generator 120 to display the setup menu of the program progress displaying function on the screen of picture tube 122.

Referring to FIG. 3 illustrating the setup menu of a program progress time displaying window, the menu is presented on the left side of the window, and the selection state on the right side. That is, the menu offers menu selection options for displaying program information including "when changing channel up/down," "in IR remote controller events," "when terminating programs," and "next program information when terminating programs."

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The user's selection state is manipulated by selecting "YES" or "NO" by using the keypad 128 or the IR remote controller 130, whereby the user selects "YES" for displaying the program progress time with respect to respective menu options, and otherwise selects "NO." Besides, the user selects "YES" for displaying the next program information before terminating a current program, and otherwise selects "NO."

In step 140, the microprocessor 124 receives and stores the setup data for displaying program progress time information, and then returns to step 136. In step 142, the microprocessor 124 checks whether the user issues the channel up/down command using the keypad 128 or the IR remote controller 130, thereby performing step 144 when the channel up/down command is issued, and otherwise performing step 146.

In step 144, the microprocessor 124 reads out the above setup data, thereby checking whether the setup menu is set so as to display the program progress time when the channel is changed up or down, whereupon the microprocessor 124 proceeds to step 158 if the setup menu is set so as to display the program progress time when the channel is changed up or down, thereby displaying the program progress time.

The microprocessor 124 produces OSG data for displaying the program progress time and delivers the OSG data to the OSG mixer 118. The OSG mixer 118 mixes the OSG data from microprocessor 124 and the video data from the video decoder 116, and delivers the resulting data to the image processor/generator 120 for display on the picture tube 122.

Referring to FIG. 4, illustrating the program progress time display based on the data produced by mixing the video data and the OSG data using the OSG mixer 118, the On-Screen-Graphic is described in detail as follows. First, the microprocessor 124 reads out the relevant program schedule information from the program guide information and then checks the beginning/terminating time of the program, thereby displaying the beginning and terminating time, and the current program progress time showing the elapsed time of the program.

As shown in FIG. 4, a bar is displayed, wherein one end of the bar represents the beginning time and the other end thereof represents the terminating time, and the entire length thereof represents the entire broadcasting time of the program. When the program progress time is displayed, the current time is detected and indicated on the bar, whereby the

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portion from the beginning time to the current time is called the progress time portion which is displayed in a different color with respect to the remaining portion.

The progress time portion is indicated percentagewise with respect to the entire length of the bar, i.e., the entire broadcasting time. And the remaining portion from the current time to the terminating time is called the remaining time portion which is indicated percentagewise with respect to the entire bar length. Furthermore, the program number, the name of the broadcast station, and the title of the program are displayed above the time bar, and this information including the time bar cumulatively are called the program progress time information.

After displaying the program progress time information, the microprocessor 124 performs steps 160-162, determining whether a specified time interval has elapsed in step 160, and closing the display window of the program progress time information after the specified time interval has elapsed in step 162. The microprocessor then returns to step 136.

In step 144, if the setup menu is set so as not to display the program progress time when the channel is changed up or down, the microprocessor 124 proceeds to step 146. In step 146, the microprocessor 124 checks whether an event of the IR remote controller 130 exists, and if so, proceeds to step 148, and otherwise to step 150. In step 148, the microprocessor 124 checks the setup data for whether the program progress time shall be displayed when the event of the IR remote controller 130 exists, and if so, performs the previously described steps of 158-162, and otherwise proceeds to step 150.

In step 150, the microprocessor 124 checks whether the time from the current time of the program to the terminating time thereof is equal to a preset time. In other words, the microprocessor 124 determines whether the remaining time portion of the currently viewed program is less than the preset time. The preset time is set at the time of manufacture, or can be set by the user. Thus, when the time from the current time of the program to the terminating time thereof is equal to the preset time, the microprocessor 124 proceeds to step 152, and otherwise returns to step 136.

In step 152, the microprocessor 124 checks the setup data for whether the next program information shall be displayed before the current program is terminated, and if so, proceeds to step 154, and otherwise returns to step 136.

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In step 154, the microprocessor 124 produces OSG data for displaying the next program information and delivers the OSG data to the OSG mixer 118. The OSG mixer 118 mixes the OSG data from the microprocessor 124 and the video data from the video decoder 116. The OSG mixer 118 delivers the resulting data to the image processor/generator 120 for display on the picture tube 122.

Upon generation of the OSG data for displaying the next program information, the microprocessor 124 proceeds to step 156 to check whether the setup menu is set so as to display the program progress time before the current program is terminated, and if so, performs the previously described steps 158-162, and otherwise returns to step 136.

When the setup menu is set to display the next program information and the program progress time information, the microprocessor 124 displays all the information as shown in FIG. 5. The OSG for the next program information is displayed above the program progress time bar.

As described above, the program progress time is displayed when the time from the current time of the program to the terminating time thereof is equal to the preset time and the program process time is set to be displayed. Besides, at this time, the next program progress information is displayed when the next program is set to be displayed.

#### CLAIMS

### What is claimed:

- 1. A method of displaying a program progress time on a picture tube of a TV receiver which receives and processes program guide information containing a program schedule, comprising the steps of:
  - (a) storing the program guide information;
  - (b) setting a command of the TV receiver which is commonly usable by a user as a display command to display time information about a currently viewed program on the picture tube; and
  - (c) displaying the time information about the currently viewed program on the picture tube when the user issues the display command set in said step (b).
  - 2. A method of displaying a program progress time as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of displaying the time information together with the currently viewed program on the picture tube.
  - 3. A method of displaying a program progress time as claimed in claim 1, wherein the time information is a program terminating time of the currently viewed program.
  - 4. A method of displaying a program progress time as claimed in claim 3, wherein the time information further comprises a beginning time and a current time with respect to the currently viewed program.
  - 5. A method of displaying a program progress time as claimed in claim 4, wherein the time information includes the program progress time determined by subtracting the beginning time from the current time.

- 6. A method of displaying a program progress time as claimed in claim 5, wherein the time information further comprises a remaining program time determined by subtracting the current time from the program terminating time.
- 7. A method of displaying a program progress time as claimed in claim 6, further comprising the step of displaying next program information when the remaining program time reaches to a preset time.
  - 8. A method of displaying a program progress time as claimed in claim 7, wherein the time information further comprises a percentage of the program progress time as compared with a total program broadcasting time calculated by subtracting the beginning time from the program terminating time.
  - 9. A method of displaying a program progress time as claimed in claim 8, wherein the time information further comprises a percentage of the remaining program time as compared with the total program broadcasting time.
  - 10. A method of displaying a program progress time as claimed in claim 1, wherein the commonly usable command of the TV receiver is a command for a channel up/down.
  - 11. A method of displaying a program progress time as claimed in claim 1, wherein the commonly usable command of the TV receiver is a command for a remote controller event.
    - 12. A method of displaying a program progress time as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of judging that the command for displaying the program progress time is issued by the user so as to display the program progress time at a preset time set by the user prior to a program terminating time of the currently viewed program.

13. A method of displaying a program progress time in a TV receiver which receives and processes program guide information containing a program schedule, comprising the steps of:

receiving and storing the program guide information;

determining a total program broadcasting time of a currently viewed program by subtracting a program beginning time from a program terminating time of the currently viewed program when a user issues a command requesting the displaying of the program progress time of the currently viewed program;

determining the program progress time by subtracting the beginning time from a current time;

displaying a display bar representing the total program broadcasting time; and displaying the display bar so as to indicate a position on the display bar corresponding to the program progress time.

- 14. A method of displaying a program progress time as claimed in claim 13, further comprising the step of displaying the display bar by distinguishing between a portion of the program progress time elapsed and a remaining program progress time portion.
- 15. A method of displaying a program progress time as claimed in claim 14, further comprising the step of displaying the program progress time on a portion of the display bar between a starting position of the display bar and a position corresponding to the program progress time on the display bar.
- 16. A method of displaying a program progress time as claimed in claim 14, comprising the step of displaying the remaining program progress time on a portion of the display bar between a position corresponding to the program progress time and an end position of the display bar.

17. A method of displaying a program progress time of a currently viewed program of a television (TV) receiver, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving program guide information including a program schedule having the currently viewed program; and

displaying the program progress time of the currently viewed program in response to a command from a user to perform a function other than displaying the program progress time upon receipt of the command.

- 18. The method as claimed in claim 17, wherein the command is one of an activating a channel up/down key, determining an occurrence of a remote controller event, and setting of a preset time prior to a program termination of the currently viewed program.
- 19. The method as claimed in claim 17, wherein said displaying step comprises the step of simultaneously displaying the program progress time and the currently viewed program.
- 20. The method as claimed in claim 17, further comprising the steps of:
  generating a setup display for the user to designate ones of a plurality of commands to
  function as the command to perform the function other than displaying the program progress
  time upon receipt of the command; and

receiving inputs from the user designating the ones of the plurality of the commands to function as the command to perform the function other than displaying the program progress time upon receipt of the command.

21. The method as claimed in claim 17, further comprising the step of displaying next program information of a next program on a same channel as the currently viewed program at the preset time prior to the program termination of the currently viewed program.

22. The method as claimed in claim 17, further comprising the steps of:

generating a setup display for the user to designate ones of a plurality of commands to function as the command to perform the function other than displaying the program progress time upon receipt of the command, wherein a one of the plurality of commands is to display the program progress time at a preset time prior to a program termination of the currently viewed program, and for the user to designate another command to display next program information on a same channel as the currently viewed program at the preset time;

receiving inputs from the user designating whether the ones of the plurality of the commands are to function as the command to perform the function other than displaying the program progress time upon receipt of the command; and

displaying the next program information at the preset time if the first and the another commands are set by the user positively.

- 23. The method as claimed in claim 17, wherein the program progress time includes a program beginning time, a current time, and a program termination time of the currently viewed program.
- 24. The method as claimed in claim 23, wherein the program progress time further includes a channel number, a name of a broadcast station and a title of the currently viewed program.
- 25. The method as claimed in claim 23, wherein said displaying step comprises the step of displaying the beginning time at a start of a display bar, the program termination time at end of the display bar, and the current time at a position of the display bar corresponding to a percentage of time elapsed versus a total time of the currently viewed program.
- 26. The method as claimed in claim 25, wherein said displaying step further comprises the step of displaying a first percentage number of the time elapsed and a second percentage number of a time remaining versus the total time of the currently viewed program.

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- 27. The method as claimed in claim 25, wherein the command is to display the program progress time automatically at a preset time prior to a program termination of the currently viewed program.
  - 28. A device for displaying a program progress time, comprising:

a receiving unit to receive a TV program and a TV program guide containing a program schedule which includes information on the TV program;

a user interface to enable entry of a command from a user requesting display of the program progress time;

an audio output unit to generate an audio signal of the TV program;

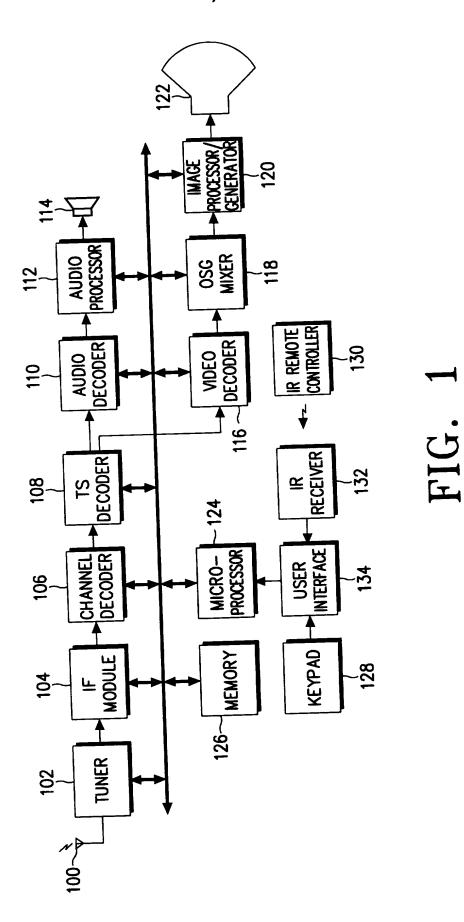
a processor to produce On-Screen-Graphic data for displaying the program progress time in response to the command from the user and based upon the program schedule;

a video output unit to mix video data of the TV program and On-Screen-Graphic data of the TV program, to output a resulting signal; and

- a display to display the resulting signal.
- 29. The device as claimed in claim 28, wherein the command is one of an activating a channel up/down key, determining an occurrence of a remote controller event, and setting of a preset time prior to a program termination of the currently viewed program.
- 30. The device as claimed in claim 28, wherein said processor produces ON-Screen Graphic data for displaying next program information of a next program on a same channel as the TV program at a preset time prior to a program termination of the TV program.

# ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method of displaying program progress time in a TV receiver which receives and processes program guide information containing a program schedule, includes the steps of storing the program guide information, and displaying time information about a relevant program on the picture tube when the user issues a command requesting the displaying of a program progress time with respect to a currently viewed program.



# PROGRAM PROGRESS TIME DISPLAY

CHANNEL UP/DOWN

YES

IR REMOTE CONTROLLER EVENT

NO

PROGRAM TEMINATING TIME

YES

DISPLAYING NEXT PROGRAM INFORMATION YES BEFORE THE TIME OF PROGRAM TERMINATION

FIG. 3

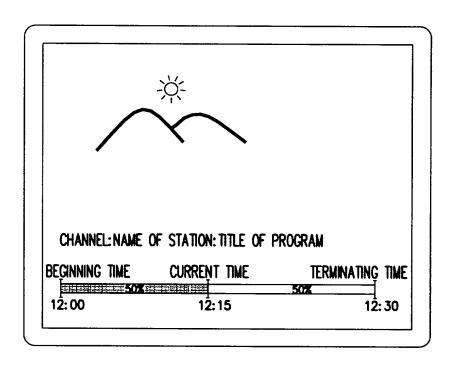


FIG. 4

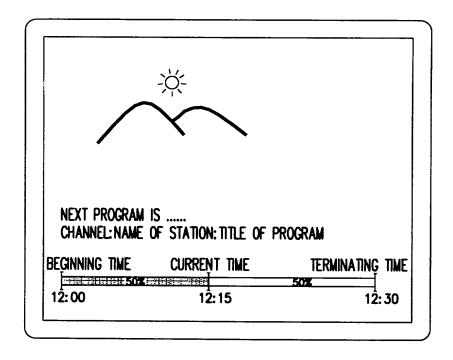


FIG. 5

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#### UNITED STATES COMBINED DECLARATION/POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR UTILITY/DESIGN PATENT APPLICATION As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that: My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name. I believe that I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled: METHOD OF DISPLAYING TV PROGRAM PROGRESS TIME AND DEVICE THEREOF the specification of which is attached hereto unless the box is checked: as United States Application Number or PCT Interrotional Application and was amended on I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above. I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR § 1.56. I hereby claim foreign priority benefit(s) under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or § 365(3) of any foreign application(s) for patent or invertor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed. Prior Foreign Application(s) Priority Not Claimed 1997-26688 Korea June 1997 (Number) (Country) Day/Month/Year Filed (Number) (Country) Day/Month/Year Filed I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. § 120 of any United States application(s), or § 365(c) of any PCT International application designating the United States, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT International application(s) in the manner provided by the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR § 1.56 which become available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT International filing date of this application. (Application Serial No.) (Filing Date) (Stotus -- patented, pending, abandaried) (Application Serial No.) (Filing Date) (Statue -- patented, pending, abandoned) I hereby appoint the following attorneys and agent to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith: James D. Halsey, Jr., 22,729; harry John Staas, 22,010; David M. Pitcher, 25,908; John C. Garvey, Z8,607; J. Randall Beckers, 30,358; James H. Marsh, Jr., 24,533; William F. Herbert, 31,024; Richard A. Gollhofer, 31,106; Mark J. Henry, 36,162; Paul Dacheler, 35,852; Gene M. Garner II, 34,172; Ilene D. Altman, 36,371; Michael D. Stein, 37,240; Paul I. Krave: 2, 35,235; Gerald P. Joyce, III, 37,648; Todd E. Marlette, 35,269; Beverly A. Pawlikowski, 36,404; Harlan B. Williams, Jr., 34,756; Richard J. Stokey, 40,383 and William M. Schertler, 35,348 (agent) Address all correspondence to: STMAS & HALSEY, 700 Eleventh Street, N.W., Suite 500, Washington, D.C., 20001 Direct all telephone calls to: (202) 434-1500 I hereby occlare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. §1001, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon. My Joo Inventor's Signature \_\_\_tate March 13, 1998 Residence <u>Sepul</u> Korea \_\_\_\_ Citizenship \_\_\_\_\_\_ KOREA Post Office Address Kyungwon APY, #303, Bangbae 2-dong, Seocho-gu, Seoul, kenca Full name of second joint inventor, if any \_\_\_ Second Inventor's Signature \_\_\_

Citizenship \_\_\_

Additional inventors are being named on separately numbered sheets attached hereto.